



A V I L A      U N I V E R S I T Y

# BASKETBALL MEDIA GUIDE





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# Men's Basketball Outlook & Head Coach



The 2004-2005 Avila men's basketball team will count heavily on a large group of newcomers to contend in the tough Heart of America Conference.

## JUCO TRANSFERS LOOK TO BOLSTER EAGLES

A general comparison can be made between the metamorphosis of this year's Avila University men's basketball team and the climax of many old western movies on T.V.

As the cavalry used to rush over the hill in the nick of time to save the wagon train from the Indians, so have several junior college players rushed over the hill in time to save, or add experience, to an AU team that was decimated by the loss of several vital members of last year's team.

Wholesale personnel changes and cautious optimism abounds the AU men's basketball team as they gear up for the 2004-05 campaign.

The Eagles will have ten new names that did not appear on their roster last year. This follows a mass exodus of seniors that subtracted three starters and one player in the top rotation. Michael Socin (a super sub), along with Kenny Johnson, Curtis Harold,

and Chris Savell exit the Indian starting lineup. The Eagles also lost starter and top returnee Nick Uphoff and reserve players Jordan Lewis and Matt Esquibel. Uphoff was expecting to lead the Eagles on this season, but decided to transfer to Fresno State back home in California. This has the Eagles losing four starters from last year's team.

First year head coach Anthony Hall appears to have answered the question of how this year's team could compete with more experienced teams by recruiting almost exclusively on the junior college level. Junior college transfers will comprise six of the eight new recruits on an AU team that finished 16-17 on the season and sixth in the conference. The addition of junior college players is expected to bring much needed experience to the Eagle line-up.

Marquise Fulcher and Eric King head the list and according to Hall have been a great acquisitions. "Both players should do well for us," said Hall, who hopes the 6'6" Fulcher and 6'5" King can create match-up problems with their versatility. "They will be a key to our having a good season," said Hall.

Other new performers from the JUCO ranks that should add experience to the squad are 6'1" Gerald Strong, 6'2" Justin White and 6'3" Justin Cook-Lockhart. White and Cook-Lockhart have shown outstanding scoring potential in early season practices according to Hall. He added that Strong is a great leader with a can-do attitude, who can also create for himself.

After losing the four full-time starters and several role players from the team last year, Hall knew that the ranks had been greatly

depleted. "After last year we knew that we were in a desperate situation." This prompted Hall to go out and work extremely hard at recruiting.

After a successful recruiting year, Hall's perspective has changed somewhat. According to the Eagle coach his diligence was rewarded with some fine players. "This is possibly the most athletic Eagle team in a long time," Hall said.

What this year's team may lack in experience at this level is expected to be made up through intangible factors, according to Hall. "The attitude is very positive," he said. "These kids have a mind of what it takes to win. They are very enthusiastic about practice, about this season, and about each other."

Other new recruits include 6'5" Kenny Jackson, 6'2" Joseph Hamlett and 5'11" Dylan Collins. Jackson played junior college ball several years ago at Penn Valley Community College. Hamlett and Collins come to AU as the only freshman recruits. Hall said that Hamlett and Collins have been big surprises. "They both have fit into the system surprisingly well and they are really coming on," he said.

Graceland University transfers 6'6" Spencer Samu and 5'11" Jason Lewis will also be new to the AU program. These two players should play major roles in the success of the AU program on this season.

Returning for the Eagles from last year are starter Anthony Sansone and part-time starter Tivy Richards. Sansone, who is respected for his high energy level, will be counted on heavily this season. Richards will also be counted on for his inside play. Charles Whitfield, who played for the Eagles two seasons ago, should also assist in the team's success.

**Head Coach Anthony Hall**, a native of Port Gibson, Mississippi, enters his first season as head coach at Avila University. Last season, on an interim basis, Hall guided Avila to an impressive finish in the very competitive Heart of America Athletic Conference.

Hall had been an assistant coach at Avila for the past 5 seasons. He helped to lead Avila to the most wins in school history and a fourth place conference finish in the 2001-02 season.

Hall came to Avila after spending two seasons at The State University of West Georgia. West Georgia competes in the powerful Gulf-South Conference. While Hall was an assistant at West Georgia, they won the east division of the conference and competed in the NCAA Division II National Tournament both seasons. In 1997 he helped to lead Hutchinson Community College to the Regional Championship at the National Junior College Tournament. Hall also assisted Wichita Collegiate School to the Class 3A State Championship in 1993.

Hall played college basketball at Southeast Missouri State University. He was a valuable member on the 1985-86 team that finished as NCAA Division II Runner-up with a 27-7 record. Hall earned Honorable Mention All Conference that season. In the 1984-85 season at SEMO, the team also competed in the Elite Eight. Prior to SEMO, Hall was an All-State performer at Utica Junior College.

Hall received his bachelor's degree from Southeast Missouri State University and is completing his thesis work for his master's degree from Central Michigan University.

Coach Hall resides in Grandview, MO with wife Tracy, and children Taylor (13), T.J. (9) and Trevor (2).



# Men's Basketball



## 2004-2005 Roster

#	Name	Class	Hgt	Pos	City
3	Justin White	Jr.	6'2	G	Victorville, CA
5	Jason Lewis	Sr.	5'11	G	Freeport, Bahamas
10	Gerald Strong II	Jr.	6'1	G	Rochester, NY
12	Reid Rinehart	Soph.	6'2	G	Highlands Ranch, CO
14	Blake Carr	Jr.	6'1	G	Jefferson City, MO
20	Charles Whitfield	Sr.	6'5	F	Norfolk, VA
21	Justin Cook-Lockhart	Jr.	6'3	G/F	Kansas City, MO
22	Brett Schmitt	Soph.	6'3	F	Liberty, MO
23	Anthony Sansone	Jr.	5'8	G	Kansas City, MO
24	Andrew Green	Soph.	6'2	G	Marceline, MO
25	Dylan Collins	Fr.	5'11	G	Nixa, MO
32	Eric King	Jr.	6'5	F	Trenton, TN
34	Marquise Fulcher	Jr.	6'6	G/F	Coffeyville, KS
42	Joseph Hamlett Jr	Fr.	6'2	G	Grandview, MO
44	Tivy Richards	Sr.	6'7	C	Kingston, Jamaica
45	Kenny Jackson	Soph.	6'5	F	Raymore, MO
50	Spencer Samu	Sr.	6'6	C	Zimbabwe
55	Eric Reeves	Soph.	6'8	C	Olathe, KS

Head Coach: Anthony Hall

Assistant Coaches: Rod Seaba, Brian Sudis, Issac Chew



Junior Anthony Sansone (Kansas City, MO) returns and will provide the Eagles with effort and energy in the backcourt.



Senior Tivy Richards (Kingston, Jamaica) gives the Eagles a strong presence in the post in 2004-2005.

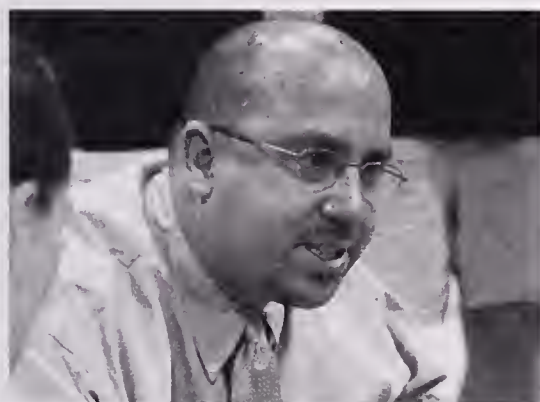
# Go Eagles!

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Time</i>
11/3/04	Wed.	Iowa Wesleyan College	HOME	5:30 p.m.
11/5/04	Fri.	Benedictine Classic (Bethel College)	Atchison KS	5:00 p.m.
11/6/04	Sat.	Benedictine Classic (Harris Stowe St. College)	Atchison KS	12:00 noon
11/10/04	Wed.	Haskell Indian Nations University	HOME	5:30 p.m.
11/12/04	Fri.	Southwestern Classic (Friends Univ.)	Winfield KS	TBA
11/13/04	Sat.	Southwestern Classic (Southwestern)	Winfield KS	TBA
11/16/04	Tue.	Evangel University*	Springfield MO	5:30 p.m.
11/20/04	Sat.	Lindenwood University*	HOME	2:00 p.m.
11/22/04	Mon.	McPherson College	McPherson KS	7:00 p.m.
11/30/04	Tue.	Manhattan Christian College	HOME	7:00 p.m.
12/2/04	Thu.	Benedictine College*	HOME	5:30 p.m.
12/4/04	Sat.	Baker University*	Baldwin City KS	2:00 p.m.
12/7/04	Tue.	Kansas Wesleyan University	Salina KS	5:30 p.m.
12/9/04	Thu.	Central Methodist College*	HOME	5:30 p.m.
12/11/04	Sat.	Culver-Stockton College*	Canton MO	2:00 p.m.
12/29/04	Wed.	Texas Wesleyan	Ft. Worth TX	5:30 p.m.
1/6/05	Thu.	Graceland University*	Lamoni IA	5:30 p.m.
1/8/05	Sat.	Missouri Baptist	HOME	4:00 p.m.
1/10/05	Mon.	Mid-America Nazarene University*	HOME	5:30 p.m.
1/13/05	Thu.	William Jewell College*	HOME	5:30 p.m.
1/15/05	Sat.	Missouri Valley College*	Marshall MO	2:00 p.m.
1/20/05	Thu.	Evangel University*	HOME	5:30 p.m.
1/22/05	Sat.	Lindenwood University*	St. Charles MO	2:00 p.m.
1/27/05	Thu.	Benedictine College*	Atchison KS	5:30 p.m.
1/29/05	Sat.	Baker University*	HOME	2:00 p.m.
1/31/05	Mon.	Stephens College	Columbia MO	7:00 p.m.
2/3/05	Thu.	Central Methodist College*	Fayette MO	5:30 p.m.
2/5/05	Sat.	Culver-Stockton College*	HOME	2:00 p.m.
2/10/05	Thu.	Graceland University*	HOME	5:30 p.m.
2/14/05	Mon.	Mid-America Nazarene University*	Olathe KS	5:30 p.m.
2/17/05	Thu.	William Jewell College*	Liberty MO	5:30 p.m.
2/19/05	Sat.	Missouri Valley College*	HOME	2:00 p.m.

**MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Time</i>
11/3/04	Wed.	Kansas Wesleyan University	Salina KS	7:30 p.m.
11/5/04	Fri.	St. Mary's Classic (St. Mary's)	Leavenworth KS	8:00 p.m.
11/6/04	Sat.	St. Mary's Classic (Briar-Cliff)	Leavenworth KS	6:00 p.m.
11/10/04	Wed.	Haskell Indian Nations University	HOME	7:30 p.m.
11/13/04	Sat.	Iowa Wesleyan	HOME	7:30 p.m.
11/15/04	Mon.	Central Missouri State University	Warrensburg MO	7:00 p.m.
11/18/04	Thu.	Evangel University*	Springfield MO	7:30 p.m.
11/20/04	Sat.	Lindenwood University*	HOME	4:00 p.m.
11/22/04	Mon.	University of St. Mary	HOME	7:30 p.m.
11/26/04	Fri.	ABC/Best Western Classic	Away	TBA
11/26/04	Sat.	ABC/Best Western Classic	Away	TBA
12/2/04	Thu.	Benedictine College*	HOME	7:30 p.m.
12/4/04	Sat.	Baker University*	Baldwin City KS	4:00 p.m.
12/7/04	Tue.	Kansas Wesleyan University	Salina KS	7:30 PM
12/9/04	Thu.	Central Methodist College*	Fayette MO	7:30 p.m.
12/11/04	Sat.	Culver-Stockton College*	Canton MO	4:00 p.m.
1/4/05	Tue.	Ottawa University	Ottawa KS	7:00 p.m.
1/6/05	Thu.	Graceland University*	Lamoni IA	7:30 p.m.
1/10/05	Mon.	Mid-America Nazarene University*	HOME	7:30 p.m.
1/13/05	Thu.	William Jewell College*	HOME	7:30 p.m.
1/15/05	Sat.	Missouri Valley College *	Marshall MO	4:00 p.m.
1/20/05	Thu.	Evangel University*	Springfield MO	7:30 p.m.
1/22/05	Sat.	Lindenwood University*	St. Charles MO	4:00 p.m.
1/27/05	Thu.	Benedictine College *	Atchison KS	7:30 p.m.
1/29/05	Sat.	Baker University*	HOME	4:00 p.m.
2/3/05	Thu.	Central Methodist College*	Fayette MO	7:30 p.m.
2/5/05	Sat.	Culver-Stockton College*	HOME	4:00 p.m.
2/7/05	Mon.	Park University	Parkville MO	7:00 p.m.
2/10/05	Thu.	Graceland University*	HOME	7:30 p.m.
2/14/05	Mon.	Mid-America Nazarene University*	Olathe KS	7:30 p.m.
2/17/05	Thu.	William Jewell College*	Liberty	7:30 p.m.
2/19/05	Sat.	Missouri Valley College*	HOME	4:00 p.m.



Head Coach Greg Mittelstadt enters his 3rd season and the Lady Eagles look for their third straight Heart of America Conference Tournament appearance.



Head Coach Anthony Hall looks to build on the success he found as the interim head coach during the 2003-2004 season.



*Bold faced games denote home games played at Avila University*

*\*Indicates Heart of America Athletic Conference opponent.*



# Women's Basketball Outlook & Head Coach



The Avila University women's basketball team looks to improve upon a heart-breaking 03-04 season. Although they qualified for the HAAC conference tournament for the second straight season, the Eagles finished with a disappointing 11-21 mark. Head coach Greg Mittelsteadt returns for his third season at the helm of the Avila program and looks to two new faces for important contributions to the program. Assistant coaches Megan Pederson and Bob Lehman provide Mittelsteadt with a wealth of experience and coaching ability. Pederson spent the last 2 years as a student assistant at conference rival William Jewell. Lehman joins the Eagles after spending 4 years as an assistant coach at the University of Saint Mary in Leavenworth. On the floor, the 04-05 version of the Eagles will rely upon 4 seniors who look to finish their college careers on a high note and a group of 7 sophomores who are anxious to make their mark on the program this season.

The loss of All-HAAC selection Jenny McCarty at point guard will be offset by the return of sophomore Nicole Williamson (Kansas City, MO). Williamson saw extensive action last year, leading the Eagles in scoring numerous times and will be expected to lead the offense this year. Others figuring into the point guard mix include sophomores Ashley Simpson (Belton, MO) and Rachel Boley (Rich Hill, MO) who both spent much of last season with the junior varsity level. Simpson shared the Eagles Most Improved Player Award with 2 other players last year and Boley proved her abilities regularly in practice. Transfer Elise Wendt (William

Jewell College) was a local standout at Winnetonka High School and Penn Valley Community College but must shake off some rust after being out of competitive basketball for 2 seasons.

At the other guard position, senior Emily Eagan hit a team high 70 3-pointers for the Eagles last season and will be needed to provide the same kind of outside threat this year as well. Arguably one of the best pure shooters in the conference, the transfer from Cloud County Community College (KS) will be counted upon heavily. Sophomore Brianna Lantsberger (Raytown, MO) is another dangerous outside threat and had a solid year at the JV level. She will join sophomore Tiara Burns (Raytown, MO), who returns from knee surgery to press Eagan for playing time.

The small forward position is probably the deepest of the three perimeter positions on the Eagle squad as 3-year starter Rachel Bradberry (Independence, MO) is joined by two other returnees who saw extensive action in 2003-2004. Bradberry is one of the conference's top defensive players and was named Avila's MVP, Defensive Player of the Year, and Hustle Award Winner in 2003-2004. She must become a more complete offensive player and give the Eagles another scoring option. Behind her, senior Angie Kessler (Grant, MI) looks to improve upon a quiet junior year. Kessler, one of the nation's leading scorers at Muskegon Community College in 02-03, can provide the Eagles with some instant offense and will see time at the shooting and point guard positions as well. Sophomore Kate McClung shared the Eagles Most Improved Player Award with 2 others last year and was the junior varsity's leading scorer last season.

Power forward is another position of strength for the Eagles as they return 2 individuals who saw varsity action and welcome a heralded freshmen as well. Sophomores Lauren McCarthy (Leawood, KS) and Caitlin Stephenson (Dallas TX) are both the active, athletic post players that Mittelsteadt loves. McCarthy started 6 games last year and was at times impres-



Sophomore Nicole Williamson (Kansas City, MO) led the Eagles in scoring 4 times during her freshman campaign.

sive on both ends of the floor. Stephenson, who shared the Eagles Most Improved Player Award with 2 other freshmen last year, returns after off-season surgery and is expected to shine after a year of college basketball under her belt. Freshman Dani Asher (Billings, MO) was one of the top small school players in Missouri last year. She brings some impressive credentials with her as she was selected to the Missouri 2A All-State Team and tallied over 1500 points in high school. She is expected to play immediately. Freshman Amanda Murphy (Belton, MO) provides more depth at this position.

Three-year starter and 2-time All-HAAC selection Kayla Thomas (Blue Springs, MO) returns in the post for her last go around in an Eagle uniform. One of the top shot-blockers and rebounders in the conference, the former high jumper gives the Eagles a dangerous offensive option inside. Battling for time behind her will be junior Niki Lincoln, (Raymore, MO) the Eagles most-improved player in her freshmen campaign. Lincoln provides the Eagles with size and strength inside. Freshman Brittany Lofgreen will join the Eagles following the volleyball season and provides Mittelsteadt with another interesting option. At 6'3", Lofgreen (Lincoln, NE) is the tallest Eagle and one of the biggest players in the Heart of America Athletic Conference.



The 2004-2005 Avila women's basketball team will hope outstanding senior leadership and contributions from some key sophomores will result in success during the 2004-2005 season.

**Head Coach Greg Mittelsteadt** returns for his third season as the head coach of the Lady Eagles. Mittelsteadt, a Wisconsin native, is well known in the circle of women's basketball both in the Kansas City area and around the country. Mittelsteadt's Avila teams have qualified for the Heart of American Conference Tournament in each of his first two seasons.

Prior to coming to Avila, Mittelsteadt spent 5 years as the women's basketball coach at Highland Community College (KS) where he built the Scotties into a competitive force within the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference, one of the elite junior college conferences in the country. While at Highland, Mittelsteadt led the Scotties to their first ever NJCAA Region VI tournament bid. His teams were named NJCAA Academic All-American teams in each of his five years there and he also coached Highland's first-ever Jayhawk Conference Newcomer of the Year in 2001. In all, Mittelsteadt has 15 years of college coaching experience, also serving as an assistant coach at Upper Iowa University, Bethany Lutheran College (MN), Martin Luther College (MN), and Marian College (WI).

In addition to his college coaching, Mittelsteadt is also an active and successful summer basketball coach. A well-respected instructor on the summer camp circuit, Mittelsteadt has served on the camp staffs at the University of Wisconsin, Marquette University, Southwest Missouri State, and Mizzou. He currently serves as a consultant for Higher Level Camps, Inc, one of the largest girls' basketball programs in Wisconsin and has previously coached with Higher Level Camps, the Missouri Valley Eclipse, and the nationally renowned North-Tartan AAU program in Minnesota.





# Women's Basketball

## 2004-2005 Roster



Senior **Emily Eagan** (Topeka, KS) hit 70 three-pointers last year and will key the Eagles offensive attack in 2004-2005.



Sophomore **Lauren McCarthy** (Leawood, KS) returns after a solid freshmen season.

#	Name	Class	Hgt	Pos	City
10	Rachel Boley	Soph.	5'0	G	Rich Hill, MO
11	Lauren McCarthy	Soph.	5'11	F	Leawood, KS
12	Rachel Bradberry	Sr.	5'10	G/F	Independence, MO
13	Niki Lincoln	Jr.	6'0	C	Raymore, MO
14	Brittney Lofgreen	Fr.	6'2	C	Lincoln, NE
15	Emily Eagan	Sr.	5'4	G	Topeka, KS
20	Nicole Williamson	Soph.	5'6	G	Kansas City, MO
21	Kate McClung	Soph.	5'10	G/F	Rogersville, MO
22	Caitlin Stephenson	Soph.	5'10	F	Dallas, TX
23	Briana Lantsberger	Soph.	5'8	G	Raytown, MO
24	Angie Kessler	Sr.	5'8	G/F	Grant, MI
30	Dani Asher	Fr.	5'11	F	Billings, MO
31	Ashley Simpson	Soph.	5'7	G	Belton, MO
32	Elise Wendt	Jr.	5'7	G	Raytown, MO
35	Kayla Thomas	Sr.	5'11	F	Blue Springs, MO
44	Tiara Burns	Soph.	5'7	G/F	Raytown, MO
42	Amanda Murphy	Fr.	5'10	F	Belton, MO

Head Coach: Greg Mittelsteadt

Assistant Coaches: Megan Pederson, Bob Lehman



Senior **Angie Kessler** (Grant, MI) looks to provide scoring punch from the perimeter again this season.



3-year starter **Rachel Bradberry** (Sr. Independence, MO) was Avila's Most Valuable Player, Defensive Player of the Year, and Hustle Award Winner in 2003-2004.



2-time All-HAAC selection **Kayla Thomas** (Sr. Blue Springs, MO) expects to anchor the middle for the Eagles in 04-05.



**A**vila University is a dynamic, Catholic four-year liberal arts and preprofessional university, sponsored and founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. The University offers a broad range of studies—from business to corporate communication and allied health, just to name a few. Avila offers nearly 40 undergraduate degree programs and three graduate degree programs, many of which were the first of their kind in the Kansas City area.

For example, Avila was the first college in the Kansas City area to offer programs in nursing, gerontology, and social work. We were also the first—and currently only—four year Kansas City college to offer a paralegal program approved by the American Bar Association. We are one of only 23 colleges and universities in the entire country that offer a four - year degree in radiologic technology. We also offer the only accredited bachelors degree in social work in the Kansas City area.

Come visit the campus at 119th and Wornall Road in suburban south Kansas City and discover even more surprises about Avila University!



Avila's Dr. Fred Geer Academic Cups are awarded annually to the top academic performers among male and female AU athletes.

## AVILA UNIVERSITY

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